

Agency 18 - Department Of Agriculture

Statutory Authority:

Section 81-101 creates the Department of Agriculture as one of 15 departments under the Governor vested with administering laws of the state. There are 65 different areas of the law the Department is either directly responsible for or works with other agencies on, each containing a different subject matter relative to agriculture. Additionally, the Department is indirectly involved, by reference, with several other sections of the law.

Vision Statement:

The Department's long-range plan will focus on the development of programs to promote agriculture and uniformly enforce state statutes regulating industries. The Department's Mission Statement, which reads, "to regulate industries as prescribed by statute; and to encourage and promote the interest of agriculture through advocacy and education," will continue to be the primary focus of the Department of Agriculture.

Mission Statement:

The Department's mission is . . . "to regulate industries, as prescribed by statute; and to encourage and promote the interest of agriculture through advocacy and education."

Goals:

The Nebraska Department of Agriculture has five major goals:

1. To promote agricultural products through the development of markets and to facilitate the sale of such products;
2. To serve as a progressive and responsive advocate for Nebraska Agriculture;
3. To provide efficient and effective regulation of the industries that support and protect the health, safety, and welfare of industry and consumers;
4. Provide quality support services to fulfill the mission of the Department; and
5. Identify, plan, prepare, test and update as needed necessary agro-terrorism response plans.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY06	Approp FY07	Request FY08	Recom FY08	Request FY09	Recom FY09
General Fund	5,532,987	5,913,998	5,993,231	6,057,046	6,035,845	6,208,288
Cash Fund	5,693,639	6,701,922	6,586,855	6,532,962	6,678,786	6,748,271
Federal Fund	2,715,241	2,555,809	2,442,149	2,489,747	2,428,178	2,512,667
Revolving Fund	404,275	453,450	471,936	462,783	471,615	473,088
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Agency	14,346,142	15,625,179	15,494,171	15,542,538	15,614,424	15,942,314

Agency 18 - Department Of Agriculture Program 027 - Administration

Program Objectives:

Administration is comprised of supervision that provides leadership, direction, and supervision to the agency and eleven additional budgeted subprogram activities that provide support or are direct program activities assigned to the Department. Support activities include legal, fiscal, personnel, word processing, data processing, building overhead, and administrative revolving fund service for other agency boards and commissions. Other statutory program activities part of administration include Ag Promotion, Mediation, Beginning Farmer, Competitive Livestock Marketing, Ag Product Grading/Inspection, Market News and Ag Suppliers Lease Protection. Emphasis is placed on providing the necessary tools and training to our staff to carry out the mission of the Department.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY06	Approp FY07	Request FY08	Recom FY08	Request FY09	Recom FY09
General Fund	1,519,385	1,610,440	1,627,225	1,652,504	1,633,163	1,689,873
Cash Fund	153,008	204,767	196,795	205,613	197,800	205,665
Federal Fund	314,609	423,475	423,331	424,754	423,446	426,314
Revolving Fund	404,275	453,450	471,936	462,783	471,615	473,088
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	2,391,277	2,692,132	2,719,287	2,745,654	2,726,024	2,794,940

Performance Measures:

Nebraska agriculture is a wide, diverse industry. The broad range of agricultural products found in Nebraska requires a broad range of production input and services to help commodities reach between the producer, processor, and consumer. The Department's basic function is to monitor activities between the links of the food chain. The Department works for the protection of the consumer, as well as the producer.

Agency 18 - Department Of Agriculture Program 056 - Weights & Measure

Program Objectives:

The purpose of the Division of Weights and Measures is to protect the buyer and seller in all commercial transactions where the quantity is determined by weight, measure, or count. The Division accomplishes these objectives through annual registration and inspection of over 35,454 devices, verification of the net contents of packaged goods and verification of advertised prices with data base pricing. These functions ensure fair competition between businesses and provide the measurement system with the integrity that the consumer relies on during each purchase. Of Nebraska's economy, 35 billion dollars is highly dependent upon accurate measurement.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY06	Approp FY07	Request FY08	Recom FY08	Request FY09	Recom FY09
General Fund	686,058	738,701	751,614	758,488	745,554	778,043
Cash Fund	723,043	798,140	807,072	814,336	795,715	833,134
Federal Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	1,409,101	1,536,841	1,558,686	1,572,824	1,541,269	1,611,177

Performance Measures:

Oversee the measurement of \$35 billion of Nebraska's goods and services when quantity is determined by weight, measurement, or count.

- Inspect and test 32,644 commercial weighing and measuring devices.
- Weight, measure, and inspect 791,000 prepackaged commodities to determine net quantity compliance.
- Maintain traceability of 4,064 primary and secondary standards of measurement to the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

Description	FY06 Actual	FY07	FY08 Request	FY09 Request
Total Device Inspections	39,208	39,500	39,800	39,800
Device Inspection Cost/Year	\$1,153,589	\$1,262,846	\$1,281,791	\$1,267,260
Average Cost/Device Inspection	\$29.42	\$31.97	\$32.21	\$31.84
Devices Rejected/Year	2,742	3,000	3,000	3,000
Total Packages Impacted/Year	1,602,402	900,000	900,000	900,000
Non Compliance Rate	5.25%	7.00%	5.00%	5.00%
Package Inspection Cost/Year	\$234,293	\$252,569	\$256,358	\$253,452
Average Cost/Inspection	\$5.69	\$4.21	\$3.94	\$3.62
Calibration/Year	4,485	4,500	4,500	4,500
Laboratory Cost/Year	\$119,399	\$126,042	\$124,934	\$126,483

Agency 18 - Department Of Agriculture Program 057 - Bureau Of Dairies And Foods

Program Objectives:

The ultimate goal of the Bureau of Dairies and Foods is to protect the public health and welfare of the citizens in the state of Nebraska by ensuring a safe and wholesome food supply. The Nebraska Pure Food Act, Nebraska Pasteurized Milk Law, and Nebraska Manufacturing Milk Act provide minimum sanitation standards and statutory authority to inspect and issue permits to all milk and food suppliers within Nebraska.

The dairy inspection activities begin at the farm and continue through the milk processing plants under the authority of the milk laws. The Nebraska Pure Food Act covers restaurants, grocery stores, concessionaries, food processors and warehouses, and similar establishments.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY06	Approp FY07	Request FY08	Recom FY08	Request FY09	Recom FY09
General Fund	733,985	779,504	778,885	792,750	779,519	813,991
Cash Fund	839,966	882,570	879,127	892,442	879,785	915,668
Federal Fund	49,627	66,255	65,353	66,237	65,353	67,628
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	1,623,578	1,728,329	1,723,365	1,751,429	1,724,657	1,797,287

Performance Measures:

The Bureau of Dairies and Foods protects the public health and welfare of the citizens in the state of Nebraska by ensuring a safe and wholesome food supply. The food program utilizes 13 inspectors to inspect 5,438 food establishments throughout the state. There is a total of 8,867 food establishments, with the balance inspected by local health departments contracted by the Department. The dairy program utilizes 4 inspectors to inspect 380 producers, 135 haulers, and 75 milk processing plants, distributors, and receiving stations in the state.

Description	FY06 Actual	FY07	FY08 Request	FY09 Request
Total Milk Inspections/Year	3,725	3,580	3,580	3,580
Milk Inspector FTE's/Year	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0
Milk Inspection Cost/Year	\$542,765	\$570,661	\$579,111	\$579,642
Average Cost/Milk Inspection	\$145.71	\$159.40	\$161.76	\$161.91
Average Milk Inspection/Inspector	931	895	895	895
Total Food Inspections/Year	16,307	16,747	17,040	17,242
Food Inspector FTE's/Year	13.0	13.0	13.0	13.0
Total Food Program Cost/Year	\$1,193,936	\$1,275,319	\$1,262,997	\$1,263,544
Average Cost/Food Inspection	\$73.22	\$76.15	\$74.12	\$73.28
Average Food Inspection/Inspector	1,254	1,288	1,311	1,326

Agency 18 - Department Of Agriculture

Program 061 - Agricultural Laboratories

Program Objectives:

The mission of the Laboratory Division is to support the activities of the Department of Agriculture by providing accurate, timely testing of samples. In providing these testing services to the Department and to others, the laboratory aids the Department in its role of regulating industries. Also, the laboratory helps to ensure the public health and economic well-being of the citizens of the state by protecting against illness, disease, and economic fraud. The Division consists of four separate laboratories: the Feed, Fertilizer and Ag Lime Laboratory; the Residue Laboratory; the Seed Laboratory; and the Dairy and Food Laboratory.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY06	Approp FY07	Request FY08	Recom FY08	Request FY09	Recom FY09
General Fund	620,940	660,945	660,091	682,561	673,295	704,450
Cash Fund	957,285	1,003,784	1,043,506	1,046,114	1,059,169	1,086,331
Federal Fund	235,848	42,684	45,033	45,006	45,033	47,691
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	1,814,073	1,707,413	1,748,630	1,773,681	1,777,497	1,838,472

Performance Measures:

It is the mission of the Laboratory Division to provide accurate and timely testing of samples for the regulatory divisions. By providing accurate work, the regulators are assured that the actions they take, as specified by law, regulation, or enforcement procedure, are done with high confidence. By providing these analyses in a timely manner, the divisions are assured that regulatory actions can be taken in an appropriate time frame. There are many factors involved with high-quality work. Proper analyst recruitment and training are highly important, as is adequately equipping the facility, and providing competent support services. Quality assurance is a daily activity, with resources committed to assuring high quality of the data. Staff safety is critical to the functioning of the laboratory, and much attention is paid to ensuring a safe workplace. All these help ensure that the Department properly regulates industry in the state, for the benefit of the general populace.

Description	FY06 Actual	FY07	FY08 Request	FY09 Request
Samples Analyzed				
Feed, Fertilizer, and Ag Lime	5,056	5,100	5,100	5,100
Residue	352	360	380	400
Seed Laboratory	1,694	2,071	2,076	2,121
Dairy and Food	5,008	5,050	5,100	5,150
Total Samples/Year	12,110	12,581	12,656	12,771
Total Determinations/Year	50,284	51,880	52,405	52,930
Total Technical FTE's/Year	16.1	16.6	16.6	16.6
Total Program Cost/Year	\$1,769,913	\$1,823,640	\$1,869,114	\$1,899,657

Agency 18 - Department Of Agriculture Program 063 - Bureau Of Animal Industry

Program Objectives:

The Bureau of Animal Industry is mandated by statute and "vested with the power and charged with the duties of protecting the health of livestock in Nebraska and determining and employing the most efficient and practical means of prevention, suppression, control and eradication of diseases transmissible among livestock..."

The Bureau continues to implement its on-going regulatory duties required to maintain the present status of the state's livestock health, such as brucellosis, pseudorabies, and chronic wasting disease monitoring; tuberculosis, pullorum and equine infectious anemia surveillance; tracking of imports and exports; licensing and certifying of markets, dealers, commercial dog and cat breeders, etc.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY06	Approp FY07	Request FY08	Recom FY08	Request FY09	Recom FY09
General Fund	1,716,424	1,848,571	1,896,930	1,887,790	1,925,213	1,931,723
Cash Fund	625,398	680,729	682,908	684,772	683,649	689,455
Federal Fund	863,131	956,016	880,012	894,960	858,790	881,328
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	3,204,953	3,485,316	3,459,850	3,467,522	3,467,652	3,502,506

Performance Measures:

The mission of the Bureau of Animal Industry is to protect the health of the livestock of Nebraska from diseases transmissible to livestock and from livestock to humans by determining and employing the most efficient and practical means of prevention, suppression, control, and eradication of diseases transmissible to and among livestock through the administration and implementation of quality animal health programs. Even as the Bureau completes its disease eradication programs, it is essential to continue disease surveillance and monitoring to ensure that any disease entering the state's livestock herd would be found in time to effectuate control measures and prevent its spread.

Description	FY06 Actual	FY07	FY08 Request	FY09 Request
Livestock Inspections/Year	11,647	12,273	12,225	11,275
Field FTE's /Year	10.4	13.5	13.5	13.5
Inspection Cost/Year	\$2,773,431	\$2,864,645	\$2,837,966	\$2,845,586
Fee Cost/Year	\$538,304	\$714,034	\$714,034	\$714,034
Total Program Cost/Year	\$3,311,735	\$3,578,679	\$3,552,000	\$3,559,620
Average Cost/Inspection	\$238.12	\$233.41	\$232.14	\$252.38
Average Number Inspections/FTE	1,120	909	906	835
Total Dog & Cat Inspections/Year	424	450	500	500
Total Dog & Cat Program Cost/Year	\$116,524	\$143,890	\$146,241	\$146,350

Agency 18 - Department Of Agriculture Program 333 - Bureau Of Plant Industry

Program Objectives:

The Bureau of Plant Industry consists of several programs which have responsibilities relating to plant certification and inspection, feed, fertilizer and agricultural lime, pesticide, plant protection, apiary, noxious weed control, seed, and groundwater and surface water protection. The Bureau is responsible for administering various statutes which have been enacted by the Nebraska Legislature. These statutes include the Nebraska Apiary Law, Plant Protection and Plant Pest Act, Commercial Feed Act, Nebraska Commercial Fertilizer and Soil Conditioner Act, Agricultural Liming Materials Act, Pesticide Act, Nebraska Seed Law, Noxious Weed Control Act, and the Buffer Strip Act.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY06	Approp FY07	Request FY08	Recom FY08	Request FY09	Recom FY09
General Fund	256,195	275,837	278,486	282,953	279,101	290,208
Cash Fund	2,114,734	2,717,064	2,553,094	2,548,033	2,620,623	2,652,423
Federal Fund	1,086,454	862,209	839,713	868,361	840,485	890,919
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	3,457,383	3,855,110	3,671,293	3,699,347	3,740,209	3,833,550

Performance Measures:

Implement provisions of the various statutes which have been enacted by the Nebraska Legislature.

1. Protect Nebraska's agriculture, horticulture, forests, environment, and general public from the artificial introduction and spread of injurious plant pests.
2. Regulate the manufacturing, distribution, labeling and storage of feed, fertilizer, seed, and ag lime products.
3. Protect Nebraska agriculture and the citizens of Nebraska from the serious threat posed by noxious weeds.
4. Promote the safe use and handling of pesticide products through certification training and inspection.
5. Develop a statewide buffer strip plan that raises the awareness of the Buffer Strip Program to the general public.
6. Facilitate the movement of Nebraska Grains and plant products to foreign countries.

Description	FY06 Actual	FY07	FY08 Request	FY09 Request
Grain Quality Inspections/Year	673	680	680	680
Pesticide Inspections/Year	959	930	985	1,035
Feed, Fertilizer, & Ag Lime Insp/Yr	9,593	9,145	9,185	9,245
Entomology Inspections/Year	6,202	6,391	6,382	6,391
Noxious Weed Inspections	4,448	4,240	4,240	4,240
Total Inspections	21,875	21,386	21,472	21,591
Total Inspection Cost/Year	\$2,828,603	\$3,002,116	\$2,971,624	\$2,979,564
Field FTE's/Year	20.7	20.7	20.7	20.7

Agency 18 - Department Of Agriculture Program 382 - Potato Development

Program Objectives:

The Nebraska potato industry relies upon the Potato Development Program for funding to support basic research in the areas of disease, storage, and production. The program also funds activities to promote potatoes and the potato industry. An excise tax of .75 cents per cwt is assessed on potatoes grown and shipped in Nebraska to provide the funds for use in research, promotion, and operation of the program. These fees were lowered in the past to adjust the cash fund balance. The committee has not seen it necessary to reinstate previous levels to support activities.

The program works closely with the Potato Certification Association of Nebraska, National Potato Council, University of Nebraska, and Nebraska Department of Agriculture.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY06	Approp FY07	Request FY08	Recom FY08	Request FY09	Recom FY09
General Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cash Fund	41,473	114,395	114,474	77,237	122,869	97,648
Federal Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	41,473	114,395	114,474	77,237	122,869	97,648

Performance Measures:

The potato industry in the state is a \$40 million plus agriculture commodity. Nebraska's production has approximately doubled in less than five years. Producers look to this checkoff program for promotion and production research to address the many insects and diseases that affect potato production.

Agency 18 - Department Of Agriculture Program 387 - Poultry Development

Program Objectives:

This program was created in 1976 to develop education, promotion, and/or appropriate research programs to enhance Nebraska's egg and turkey producers in developing and maintaining a prosperous industry. Targeted audiences include consumers, food service personnel, health professionals, educators, youth, and media. Quarterly board meetings are held with poultry representatives to address industry, program issues, and approve budgetary expenditures. The Nebraska Poultry and Egg Resources Act governs the mandatory checkoff and program activities to be performed.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY06	Approp FY07	Request FY08	Recom FY08	Request FY09	Recom FY09
General Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cash Fund	238,732	300,473	309,879	264,415	319,176	267,947
Federal Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	238,732	300,473	309,879	264,415	319,176	267,947

Performance Measures:

Develop and support education, promotion, and/or appropriate research programs to enhance Nebraska's egg and turkey producers in developing and maintaining a prosperous industry.

Agency 18 - Department Of Agriculture

Program 564 - Agricultural Development

Program Objectives:

The Ag Development Division administers the assets of the Rural Rehabilitation funds. The Federal Emergency Relief Act of 1933 and the Federal Emergency Relief Act of 1935 authorize monies to be given to states for relief activities - specifically to benefit agricultural areas. In the early 1970's, a model trust agreement allowing states the right to administer their own assets took effect. The purposes for which these assets could be used were specifically designated as agricultural. The USDA agreed to allow states to use these assets for rural rehabilitation purposes with the prior approval of USDA.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY06	Approp FY07	Request FY08	Recom FY08	Request FY09	Recom FY09
General Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cash Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Federal Fund	165,572	205,170	188,707	190,429	195,071	198,787
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	165,572	205,170	188,707	190,429	195,071	198,787

Performance Measures:

In addition to ongoing programs, solicit new program funding authorized under the USDA use agreement. With majority approval of the Rural Rehabilitation Advisory Committee, fund new activities through a Rural Rehabilitation mini-grant program or trust program. Seek to fund approximately three new programs each year from interest income earned, and keep fund principal in tack.